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County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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To: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor Don Knabe

From: Sachi A. Hamai
Interim Chief Executive Officer

Board of Supervisors
HILDA L. SOLIS
First District

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Second District

SHEILA KUEHL
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

REPORT BACK - LOS ANGELES COUNTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE - OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT - EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS ACTIVITIES 2015

On January 27, 2015, the Board requested the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) report back with an overview of public education efforts in the area of earthquake safety. The following highlights our current efforts to reach out and educate the constituents in Los Angeles County:

Background

OEM is dedicated to our mission of organizing, directing and coordinating the emergency organization of the County. To that end we work in concert with all of the County departments, unincorporated communities, independent cities, private agencies and special districts to prepare for, respond to and recover from natural and manmade threats to the Los Angeles County Operational Area.

Emergency Preparedness

Although earthquakes are and will remain a significant risk in Los Angeles County, we face many additional natural and man-made threats such as wildfires, pandemic infections, severe weather events and lone wolf attacks. For this reason, OEM advocates for an all hazard approach to emergency preparedness and planning. Whether the need to evacuate is triggered by an earthquake, wildfire, or flood, the key preparedness steps as promoted by the American Red Cross is "make a kit, have a plan and stay informed."

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

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All preparedness actions begin with personal preparedness and in support of this OEM provides preparedness information through the dissemination of brochures and pamphlets, the posting of information on numerous County websites, and the delivery of community outreach programming. Our outreach materials are also available in multiple accessible formats for people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs.

To ensure that our County work force and the work force of the independent cities and special districts are trained and qualified for their roles and responsibilities during disasters, OEM sponsors a comprehensive Emergency Operations Center (EOC) training program. In 2014, over 500 responders were trained. We are anticipating an additional 600 candidates to be trained in 2015.

A coordinated response to disasters requires that emergency plans and procedures be in place. OEM coordinates with our Operational Area partners to conduct emergency exercises and drills, which tests our response plans and protocols. Knowing that disasters often cripple infrastructure, the 2014 EOC exercise tested the Operational Area's capability to communicate without the Internet following a simulated 7.8 earthquake on the San Andreas Fault, which knocked out all landline telephones and data lines. For 2015 we are partnering with the Department of Public Health to exercise components of the Los Angeles County Medical Counter Measure Plan. This exercise will feature the actual deployment of ten points of dispensing sites (PODS) established to distribute medicine to the public.

Partners

Building a resilient community is a truly a whole community effort. The cooperation and coordination of critical partners allows OEM the ability to amplify our message and reach down into individual neighborhoods. The following is a list of our emergency preparedness partners:

- **American Red Cross** - By participating on the American Red Cross's Disaster Services Committee, we coordinate preparedness campaigns such as the *Prepare So CA* and *Map Your Neighborhood*.
<http://www.redcross.org/ca/los-angeles>
- **Emergency Network Los Angeles** - Emergency Network Los Angeles is our officially recognized Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters and in cooperation with them OEM conducted a *Continuity of Operations Plan Development Workshop* in 2014 for their non-profit membership.
<http://enla.org/about-enla/>

- **Business & Industry Council for Emergency Planning and Preparedness (BICEPP)** - BICEPP is a non-profit professional association of emergency management and business continuity professionals. OEM serves on the BICEPP Board of Directors and in October 2014 we co-sponsored a *Crisis Communications Seminar* to better prepare their members for post disaster recovery. For 2015 we are developing training sessions in the use of social media during crisis and EOC roles and responsibilities. <http://www.bicepp.org/>
- **Disaster Management Area Coordinators** - OEM serves as the day-to-day Los Angeles Operational Area Coordinator and fulfills a key role in the flow of information and resources between the independent cities and the State and federal government. To improve cooperation and coordination the 88 independent cities are sub-divided into eight Disaster Management Areas Districts with each one having a local Coordinator. The Coordinator serves as liaison between the District's cities and OEM. To facilitate this process, OEM conducts periodic meetings with the DMACs to coordinate emergency response plan review, disaster reporting, training programs and readiness exercises.
- **State and Federal Agencies** - The California Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) and the National Incident Management System (NIMS) provide a response and recovery framework by which communities respond to and recover from disasters. OEM serves a key role in the dissemination of information to the State and beyond to the federal government. When local cities proclaim a local emergency, OEM processes these proclamations and arranges the damage assessments which begin the process of economic recovery. In 2014 OEM processed local proclamations for wildfires, severe weather, storm surge damage and drought.

2015 Preparedness Initiatives

For 2015, OEM intends to continue our successful outreach campaigns while adding several new initiatives. In 2014, we saw the introduction of our *Pledge to Prepare* campaign which kicked off with a press conference featuring several Supervisors hosting local faith-based leaders in a concerted effort to improve personal preparedness within the faith-based organizations of Los Angeles County.

We will continue our awareness outreach efforts during *Earthquake Preparedness Month* (April) and *National Preparedness Month* (September), which will feature our new *America Prepare-A-Thon* initiative in cooperation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). October showcases the *Great California Shakeout* which includes a media blitz and numerous safety fairs and expos in cooperation with lead County departments.

In 2015, we will be implementing the *5 Step Program* in our unincorporated communities. This program is patterned after a program initiated in the Northwest United States that empowers local neighborhood leaders to organize at the grass roots level. OEM provides teaching materials, guidance and support to enable local communities to increase their resiliency.

For neighborhoods and organizations which want to move beyond the 5 Step Program, OEM coordinates with the Los Angeles County Sheriff and Fire Departments to promote Community Emergency Response Team Training (CERT). In our role as the Operational Area Coordinator, OEM is facilitating an effort to implement an Operational Area CERT Council which will promote a unity of effort throughout the region in the training and exercising of CERT volunteers.

Conclusion

Although Los Angeles County will always remain a region at risk of natural and manmade disasters, we are more prepared than ever before as a result of the continued leadership from the Board of Supervisors and their ongoing investment in public safety initiatives and emergency management planning. With the Board's continued leadership and investment, OEM expects to provide additional improvements Countywide which will result in an even more resilient Los Angeles County.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me, or your staff may contact Jeff L. Reeb at (323) 980-2261, or via email at jreeb@ceooem.lacounty.gov.

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c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Auditor Controller